

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-20 are pending. Entry of this amendment prior to calculation of claims fees and prior to examination is respectfully requested.

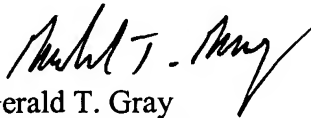
Claims 1-20 have been amended, in part, to remove multiple dependencies, and to comport with current US patent practice. No new matter has been added.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 925-472-5000.

Respectfully submitted,


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